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WHEAT CROP INSURANCE NEWS

Broadcast by John Bird, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, in the Department of Agriculture's portion of the National Farm and Home Hour, Tuesday, February 20, 1940 over 90 stations associated with the Blue Network of the National Broadcasting Company.

KADDERLY:

Wheat is in the news these days, as all over the country farmers and business men watch the weather and the prospects for the 1940 crop. So today we bring you a report on a program that has become pretty important to wheat growers everywhere. Here is John Bird of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to give you news on three developments in wheat crop insurance. Three -- that's right, isn't it, John?

BIRD:

Three it is. One -- the spring wheat deadline. Two -- A brief winter wheat round-up. And three -- how crop losses will be adjusted.

KADDERLY:

Now . . . that deadline.

BIRD:

Thursday, February 29th is the last day on which applications will be taken for insurance on the 1940 spring wheat crop.

KADDERLY:

If I were a spring wheat grower, I'd paste that date in my hat.

BIRD:

Even better would be to go to the county Triple-A office right away and file an application for insurance.

KADDERLY:

That deadline won't be extended?

BIRD:

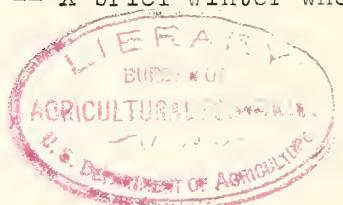
No, February 29 is the last day. There are just nine working days left in which county committees can take growers' applications.

KADDERLY:

And when that sign-up is complete, I know you'll be on hand to give us the results. But right now how about that round-up on winter wheat.

BIRD:

Here it is. The final figures. Nearly three times as many winter wheat growers have bought crop insurance in 1940 as bought it in 1939. Altogether 310,000 winter wheat contracts have been completed. We've analyzed these contracts and here is what we find: Farmers in 31 states have insured winter wheat. They paid in 11 and one-third million bushels in premiums. Through the insurance they are sure of income from more than 87 million bushels -- no matter what the weather does. Every one of the 31 winter wheat states showed an increase in the amount of insurance written.



(over)

KADDERLY:

Now, how about that news on adjustments?

BIRD:

Simply this, Wallace. The state/county Triple-A committees are getting ready to settle the losses of farmers whose fall-planted wheat crops have been damaged or destroyed. Some losses are being reported already.

KADDERLY:

John, just what does a farmer do to get paid for a loss to his insured crop?

BIRD:

It's fairly simple. First, the farmer reports the damage to the county committee. Then an adjuster inspects the crop. If the crop is a complete loss, the farmer can go right ahead and put in a claim for the full amount of his insurance. Then he can make some other use of the land.

KADDERLY:

But what if it isn't a complete loss?

BIRD:

Well, two things can be done. If the crop is so far gone that it won't pay to carry it along until harvest, the loss is appraised, taking into account the possible yield. That's called a "substantially total" loss. The farmer can get immediate settlement and use the land for some other crop. On the other hand, if the crop is a border-line case, and the farmer may or may not be entitled to an insurance payment, the loss can't be settled until the crop is threshed and the yield is measured.

KADDERLY:

One thing more, John. Farmers can ask for their indemnity in either bushels of wheat or cash equivalent, can't they?

BIRD:

We try to give it to them in the form they want, whenever possible. There's an important improvement in the method of payment this year, too.

KADDERLY:

What's that?

BIRD:

After a farmer's loss has been adjusted, he can get a deferred settlement. That means he can request us to withhold payment until he gives us notice any time within 90 days. That way the farmer can decide when he wants his settlement made.

KADDERLY:

Thanks, John.

Farm and Home friends, we have heard from John Bird of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation ---- reminding us that there are just 9 business days until the deadline for 1940 spring insurance ---- adding the highlights of the winter wheat insurance program and the method for adjusting crop losses under the crop insurance program this year